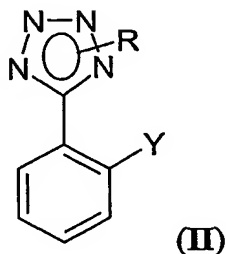


**CLAIMS**

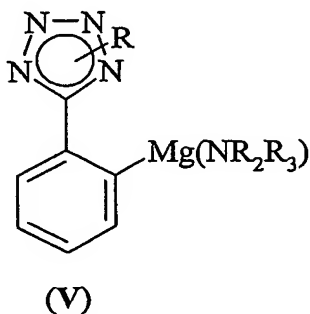
1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (II)



- 5 in which R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group and Y is a  $-B(OR_4)_2$  group, wherein each  $R_4$  is independently hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl; or a  $-ZnX$  group, wherein X is a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine;

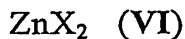
which comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (V)

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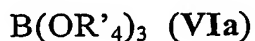
- wherein R is as defined above and  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , which can be the same or different, are straight or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_6$  cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

either with a compound of formula (VI)



wherein X is as defined above;

- 20 or with a compound of formula (VIa)



wherein each R'<sub>4</sub> is independently C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl,

and, if desired, the subsequent hydrolysis of the resulting boranic ester of formula (II).

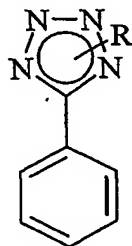
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a  
5 compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.0 to 5.0.

3. A process as claimed in claim 2, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.1 to 3.0.

10 4. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the reaction is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.

5. A process as claimed in claim 1, in which a compound of formula (V) is prepared by reaction between a compound of formula (III)

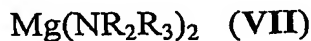
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(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula (VII)



20 wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined in claim 1.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VII) to a compound of formula (III) ranges from 0.5 to 3.0.

7. A process as claimed in claim 6, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a

compound of formula (VII) to a compound of formula (III) ranges from 1.0 to 2.0.

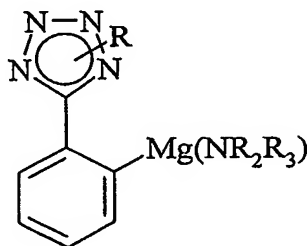
8. A compound of formula (II), as defined in claim 1, wherein R is a 1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl group and Y is a  $-B(OR_4)_2$  group, in which  $R_4$  is as defined in claim 1.

9. A compound as defined in claim 8, wherein each  $R_4$  is independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or isopropyl.

10. A compound as defined in claim 8, which is:

- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid;
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid methyl ester; or
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid isopropyl ester.

11. A compound of formula (V)



(V)

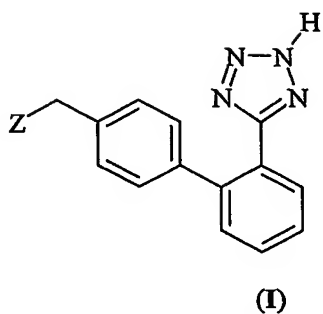
wherein R,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are as defined in claim 1.

12. A compound as defined in claim 11, which is:

- 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;
- 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;
- or
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

13. The use of a compound of formula (V), as defined in claim 11 or 12, for

the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



in which Z is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one  
5 nitrogen atom; or an amido residue;  
or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. The use as claimed in claim 13, wherein in the compound of formula (I)  
the residue Z is selected from:

2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-imidazol-1-yl;

10 2-ethoxy-7-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl;

2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4,4]non-1-en-4-on-3-yl and

(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoylamino.